

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This issue completes Volume 62 and reminds us that another year is coming to a close. With that in mind, I wish all of you a terrific holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year. As a holiday gift from the Governing Board to our members, you will be receiving an additional publication along with this edition. It contains an Index of the entire run of the journal's volumes over its 62-year existence together with a history of the Biology Unit from its beginning until now. I think you will learn many things you did not know about our study unit and the excellent contributions it has made to the study of both Philately and Biology.

The end of one year and start of a new one also serves as a reminder to send in your annual dues. We have included a renewal form with this edition for your convenience. I encourage you also to list your collecting interests on the form. This information helps us focus our publication efforts. I also wish you would consider giving permission to publish your contact information. One of the main missions of this study unit is to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and information among its members. This is difficult to do if we do not know how to get in touch with one another.

On the dues notice, you will also find an entry for donations. The Biology Unit is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and as such, your donations are fully tax deductible. Please consider sending an extra amount with your dues. These gifts help provide the Biology Unit awards given at the National Topical Stamp Show and other items such as the bonus publication you just received.

You will notice a few changes in organization of this edition that are in response to the feedback we have received from philatelic literature exhibitions. I have moved the Glossary to the back of the document to place the reference information together in one place. I have also added a new section dealing with Unit and other related news.

Since this is the final edition of the year, it includes an index to the present Volume on the final pages.

The Unit members have approved the proposed amendments to the Unit Constitution and By-Laws and I have included the complete updated versions of these documents starting on page 326. Members might want to extract or make copies of these documents and retain them for future reference.

We are fortunate to have two detailed articles in this edition. One is an updated re-publication of an article on Darwin's Voyage by Dr. Carl J. Bajema that begins on page 240. Dr. Bajema is a 60-year member of the Unit and former Professor of Biology at Grand Valley State College. The second article starting on page 253, is the first of a two-part feature by Chris Dahle on Herbs and Spices. Our cover contains a riddle related to this subject. See if you can figure it out. The answer is on page 263.

Our membership drive has succeeded in gaining 12 new members this quarter. See the Secretary-Treasurer's Corner for a listing. The Governing Board would like all of you to help keep this effort going by asking you to promote the Unit among your friends at your local clubs and shows. You can find more information and membership application forms at our web site: www.biophilately.org.

Jack Congrove

DUES RATES (US\$)

Regular membership (US & Canada)	\$20
Overseas membership	\$25
Overseas airmail (add)	\$10
On-line membership	\$15

ADVERTISING RATES

Full page insertion	\$20
Half page insertion	\$10
Quarter page insertion	\$5

Please see the Biology Unit web site (www.biophilately.org) for membership applications. Several payment options are available. Send applications and payments payable to the Biology Unit of ATA to:
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